

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 DLOS-06 EB-07 SAL-01 ACDA-07 /095 W

----- 032580

R 061028Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2256

INFO :AMEMBASSY BONN 1457

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 3828

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, NO,SV, UR

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR SICUSSES SVALBARD ISSUES WITH FOREIGN MINISTER

REFS: (A) STATE 180893, (B) OSLO 3156, (C) OSLO 3519, (D) OSLO 2946

1. DURING MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND JULY 29
WE DISCUSSED A BROAD RANGE OF SVALBARD RELATED ISSUES. SVALBARD
FISHERIES SUBJECT HAS BEEEN REPORTED IN SEPTTEL.

2. FRYDENLUND WAS EXTREMELY PLEASED TO OBTAIN US EVALUATION
OF SOVIET MISSILE FIRINGS IN BARENTS SEA (STATE 180893) AND
THE MAP WHICH WAS PREPARED FOR NORWEGIANS IN THAT CONNECTION.
HE WAS OBVIOUSLY IMPRESSED AND PLEASED THAT WE HAD RESPONDED
SO QUICKLY AND FULLY TO HIS REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON SUBJECT.
HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO CONSIDER WHETHER NORWEGIANS WISH US
TO TAKE ANY STEPS TOWARD SOVIETS CONCERNING THE MISSILE FIRINGS
(PARA 10 OF REFTTEL A) HE SAID HE WOULD GET BACK TO ME ON THIS.

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3. TURNING TO THE NORWEGIAN-SOVIET NEGOTIATIONS ON THE CON-

TINENTAL SHELF, HE SAID THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT SOVIET POSITION IN RECENT MOSCOW TALKS (OSLO 3156) HAD SIGNIFICANTLY HARDENED. HE SAID NORWAY HAD BEEN PREPARED TO CONSIDER REASONABLE SUGGESTIONS FOR COMPROMISE SOLUTIONS BETWEEN SOVIET AND NORWEGIAN BOUNDARY CLAIMS, BUT ADAMANT SOVIET STANCE MADE THIS IMPOSSIBLE. SOVIET NEGOTIATORS ACTED AS IF THERE WAS NO QUESTION ABOUT CHANGING SOVIET POSITION WHICH WAS DEFINITELY DEFINED ON SOVIET MAPS, CHARTS AND BOOKS AND WHICH THE SOVIETS REFUSED TO ACKNOWLEDGE AS A "DISPUTED AREA". FRYDENLUND DOWNPLAYED THE VIEW THAT NORWAY WAS MORE EAGER FOR AN EARLY SOLUTION TO BOUNDARY QUESTIONS THAN WERE THE SOVIETS. HE SAID BOTH COUNTRIES WANT A CLEAR BOUNDARY AND THUS NEGOTIATIONS WERE NEEDED, BUT NORWAY WAS NOT PRESSING ANY MORE THAN SOVIETS FOR EARLY RESOLUTION, NOR DID HE EXPECT MUCH MOVEMENT IN THE NEAR TERM.

4. REFERRING TO PRIME MINISTER NORKLI'S RECENT VISIT TO SVALBARD (OSLO 3519), HE REITERATED HOW DIFFICULT SOVIETS HAVE BEEN TO DEAL WITH ON SVALBARD. HE SAID THEY NOW ARE COMPLAINING ABOUT THE WEEKLY VISITS THE NORWEGIAN SVALBARD GOVERNOR, WHO HAS A HELICOPTER AT HIS DISPOSAL, IS MAKING TO SOVIET COMMUNITY AT BARENTSBERG AS PART OF HIS "POLICING" FUNCTION. FRYDENLUND THOUGHT MANY OF THE SOVIETS' CLAIMS BORDERED ON THE RIDICULOUS. FOR EXAMPLE, THEY EXPRESSED DISAPPROVAL OVER PRIME MINISTER NORDLI'S USE OF A MILITARY AIRCRAFT TO VISIT SVALBARD. IN THEIR VIEW USE OF THE AIRCRAFT WAS NOT IN THE SPIRIT OF THE NON-MILITARY USES PROVISIONS OF THE SVALBARD TREATY. ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY HAVE NOT OPPOSED USE IN SVALBARD WATERS OF NORWEGIAN FISHERIES SURVEILLANCE SHIPS, WHICH COME UNDER DEFENSE MINISTRY.

5. FRYDENLUND SAID HE BELIEVES SOVIET POSITION TOWARD SVALBARD HAS THREE PHASES; (1) BEFORE WORLD WAR II THE SOVIETS BELIEVED THAT IT WAS WRONG THAT NORWAY HAD BEEN GIVEN SOVEREIGNTY OVER SVALBARD (EVEN THOUGH THEY BELATEDLY SIGNED THE TREATY); (2) SHORTLY AFTER THE WAR THEY ACTED AS THOUGH THERE WAS A NORWEGIAN-SOVIET CONDOMINIUM IN THE AREA; AND (3) MORE RECENTLY THEY HAVE COME TO SEE THAT CONDOMINIUM IS OUT THOUGH THEY CONTINUE TO SEEK SPECIAL BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WITH NORWAY THERE. HE SAID THE SOVIETS WANT THE NORWEGIANS TO CONSULT WITH THEM ON SVALBARD ISSUES IN ADVANCE AND THAT HE HAS SPENT A LOT OF TIME COORDINATING WITH THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO NORWAY. BUT HE FELT IT WAS NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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PRACTICAL TO DO THIS WITH ALL TREATY SIGNATORIES. HE ALSO EXPRESSED THE PERSONAL VIEW THAT NORWAY HAS NEGLECTED TO ASSERT ITS SOVEREIGNTY IN THE PAST AND THAT THIS WAS A MAJOR REASON FOR NORWAY'S PRESENT PROBLEMS. HE DID NOT FEEL NORWAY NOW COULD TURN THE CLOCK BACK AND UNDO SOVIET GAINS MADE ON SVALBARD IN THE PAST, BUT WAS WORKING TO INSURE THAT THE SOVIETS DO NOT WIN NEW ADVANTAGES.

6. HE SAID HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS OWN TRIP TO SVALBARD THIS FALL. I STRESSED THAT WE CONSIDERED REGULAR VISITS SUCH AS HIS AND THE PRIME MINISTER'S IMPORTANT MEASURES FOR STRENGTHENING AND REGULARIZING NORWAY'S SOVEREIGNTY AND CONTROL ON SVALBARD.

7. FRYDENLUND SAID THAT HE AND THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT VIEWED THE ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH SVALBARD AS IMPORTANT ONES AND THAT HE HOPED US-NORWEGIAN EXPERT CONSULTATIONS ON SVALBARD WOULD RESUME IN OCTOBER. HE SAID THAT HE MIGHT HAVE OCCASION TO TALK TO THE SECRETARY ABOUT SVALBARD DURING THEIR VISIT TO UNGA DURING HIS VISIT SEPT. 26-OCT. 3.
ANDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976OSLO03828
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760303-1102
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760879/aaaacrpr.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 180893, 76 OSLO 3156, 76 OSLO 3519, 76 OSLO 2946
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <20 AUG 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR SICUSSES SVALBARD ISSUES WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
TAGS: EFIS, NO, SV, UR, US, (NORDLI, ODVAR), (ANDERS, WILLIAM A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006